

**Course Outline for:** MUSC 1124 Rock and Roll History**A. Course Description:**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #6 – Humanities and the Fine Arts  
Goal #7 - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Since World War II, American popular music has been one of the nation's largest cultural exports. The multi-billion-dollar industry has made superstars out of otherwise unknown artists and cast a long shadow over popular culture across the globe. Explore its origins and discover the moments when new styles emerge, often driven by a desire for musical change, but also as a reaction to significant social, political, and business influences. This course will present the student a scholarly examination of the musical development of rock and roll from the fundamental musical characteristics and social influences of its African roots through innovators and innovations of today.

**B. Date last reviewed/updated:** February 2025**C. Outline of Major Content Areas:**

1. Basic concepts of the fundamentals of music
2. Historical timelines of musical styles from early twentieth-century to today
3. Recorded examples of representative styles
4. Development of modern music technology, its influence on popular music and vice versa
5. Aspects and influences of music business on musical style and development

**D. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and respond critically to instrumentation, musical styles, musical forms, and artists from recorded examples. (Goal 2a, 6c, 6e)
2. Demonstrate an awareness of identifying characteristics of subgenres in modern popular music. (Goal 2a, 6a)
3. Understand how the changing meaning of group identities influenced the development of popular music styles, including blues, country, rock & roll, R&B, pop, rap, metal, and others. (Goal 2c, 2d, 6b, 7Aa)
4. Explain how institutional power dynamics (e.g., business practices, socio-economic factors, geographical factors, political factors) have impacted popular music. (Goal 7Ab, 7Ad)

5. Explain how the experiences and contribution of different identity groups in the United States has influenced the development of popular music from its earliest stages through modernization. (Goal 2a, 2c, 7Ad)

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Written exams and quizzes
2. Listening exams and quizzes
3. Written reaction to class presentations, recorded examples, and readings
4. Oral presentations and/or essays on research topics
5. Written response to live performance

**F. Special Information:**

None